Examples of Acceptance Criteria

In this section we'll take a look at examples of acceptance criteria written for common features present on most websites. We'll define user stories upfront because acceptance criteria are written after we've specified all functionality through user stories.

Example #1

Our first user story describes the webpage search feature:

As a website user
I want to able to search on the webpage
So that I can find necessary information

According to the Given/When/Then template, the acceptance criteria would be the following:

Scenario: User searches for an item by its name
"Given that I'm in a role of registered or guest user
When I open the "Products" page
Then the system shows me the list of all products
And the system shows the "Search" section in the right top corner of the screen
When I fill in the "Search" field with the name of existing item in the product list
And I click the "Apply" button OR press the Enter key on keyboard
Then the system shows products in the Search Results section with product names matching entered product name
And the system shows the number of search results in the top of the Search Results section"

Example #2

The next example represents the acceptance criteria for a Feedback Form page. The user story would be the following:

As a website user
I want to able to submit feedback
So that the website owners can consider my opinion or concern during future website updates

Acceptance criteria for this piece of functionality would be:

Scenario: User submits feedback form with the valid data
"Given I'm in a role of logged-in or guest user
When I open the Feedback page

Then the system shows me the Submit Feedback form containing "Email","Name" and "Comment" fields which are required
When I fill in the "Email" field with a valid email address
And I fill in the "Name" field with my name
And I fill in the "Comment" field with my comment
And I click the "Submit Feedback" button
Then the system submits my feedback
And the system shows the "You've successfully submitted your feedback" flash message
And the system clears the fields of the Submit Feedback form"

Example #3

Finally, let's specify the user story and acceptance criteria for commenting functionality on a blog. Only signed-in users are able to add comments. The user story for an "add a comment" feature would be:

As a signed-in user
I want to able to comment on a blog post
So that I can get feedback on issues

The acceptance criteria for this piece of functionality would be:

Scenario: Signed-in user leaves a comment on a blog post
"Given I'm in a role of signed-in user
When I open the page with a specific blog post
Then the system shows the "Comments" section below the blog post with the list of comments added by other users
And the system shows the "Add a Comment" field in the top of the "Comments" section
When I fill in the "Add a Comment" field with my comment
And I click the "Submit" button
Then the system saves my comment
And the system shows my comment in the top of the "Comments" section
And the system shows my username and profile picture on the left side from my comment
And the system shows "Remove" and "Edit" icons opposite my comment"